

**Cope's Early Diagnosis of the Acute Abdomen:
20th Edition**

Revised by William Silen, 2000, New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 286 pages, \$29.95

This classic treatise continues to be an essential educational resource for any practitioner involved in the examination and diagnosis of abdominal conditions. For the internist, gynecologist, radiologist, and family physician alike, the language of the book is clear and the concepts are logically presented. Unlike standard surgical texts that describe each abdominal condition as distinct entities, Cope's aims to teach the art of grouping symptoms and formulating differential diagnoses based on the presentation.

While the utility of various diagnostic modalities are adequately discussed (e.g., ultrasound, laboratory tests, computed tomography) in this edition, the ability to obtain an accurate history and perform a thorough physical examination remain the primary emphasis of the book. What follows is systematic analysis of symptoms and signs based on anatomic, physiologic, and embryologic principles. The reader's understanding is further enhanced with clear illustrations and tables throughout the text as well as sixteen radiographic plates of above-average quality.

This edition also includes a chapter addressing acute abdominal conditions that are traditionally rare in the United States, but are now being observed with increasing frequency. The chapter covering abdominal complaints in immunocompromised patients is worth reviewing. Lastly, Dr. Silen gives his expert opinion on the appropriateness of current diagnostic technology, and offers sound algorithms for offering such tests.

The cost of the book is very reasonable, with fluid readability. For residents and students, the book is suitable for quick reference when encountering a new patient with abdominal complaints.

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Diseases of the Breast

Jay R. Harris, Marc E. Lippman, Monica Morrow, and C. Kent Osborne, 2000, Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 1152 pp, \$175.00

The second edition of *Diseases of the Breast*, edited by Harris, Lippman, Morrow, and Osborne, is a comprehensive single volume reference book that achieves its stated goal to "summarize the current knowledge of breast diseases, including their clinical features, management, and underlying

biologies and epidemiologies." As in the first edition, authors from around the world have contributed their experience and expertise. This 1,152 page book has been reorganized into 18 sections. The revised organization combined with a change in the layout of the index make the second volume much easier to use as a reference book. The first three sections deal with breast anatomy and development, management of benign disease, and imaging techniques. The remaining sections cover basic aspects of breast cancer including epidemiology and treatment, as well as issues in breast cancer survivorship. The chapters themselves are well written, up to date, and of reasonable length for a review. Especially helpful for clinicians are chapters covering site-specific therapies, management of recurrence, and new therapeutic approaches. The chapter on medicolegal aspects of breast cancer evaluation and treatment is dry but a necessary read for most physicians, in light of the high incidence of lawsuits concerning delay in diagnosis. The sections on pathogenesis and on basic tools for advancing knowledge in breast cancer are excellent reading for clinical and basic scientists who are interested in developing collaborative research projects. Overall, this second edition provides a good review of basic knowledge as well as current information on advances in basic science and clinical care, and it would be a useful addition to the library of any surgeon that deals with breast disease.

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Vascular Surgery (5th edition)

Robert B. Rutherford, 2000, Philadelphia, PA:
W.B. Saunders, 2266 pp, \$295.00

The fifth edition of Rutherford's *Vascular surgery* is a timely update for a resource that can be considered the most authoritative textbook of vascular surgery available today. In this latest edition, some chapters have been consolidated many new chapters and topics have been added. Vascular surgery has become a well defined specialty best practiced by appropriately trained individuals.

The fifth edition of Rutherford should be the primary resource for all vascular surgical residents, and it should be on every practicing vascular surgeons' shelf. The entire realm of vascular surgery is covered in exquisite detail. (In fact, a few topics included in this text may rarely be encountered by most vascular surgeons.) Newly expanded sections covering endovascular interventions are timely and well written. Updates on imaging and therapeutics (medical, percutaneous, and surgical) have been added. In general, the chapters are grouped appropriately and there are ample

basic science chapters covering the embryology and development of the vascular system. The science of vascular pathology is covered in detail, and although there is a bit of overlap between a few chapters with respect to the pathophysiology of atherosclerosis, this is not very problematic. Updates on clinical trials and outcomes are appropriate and allow the busy clinician quick reference to the most appropriate interventions and therapeutics. Technical aspects are covered in appropriate detail for most topics, although this is not an atlas of vascular exposures and techniques. The medical management of many nonsurgical vascular diseases is outlined appropriately.

Compared with earlier editions, the fifth edition is an easy read. The sections on aneurysmal disease and venous disease are well written and fun to read. A clinical problem encountered more often by many vascular surgeons is that of thoracic outlet syndrome, and the chapters dealing with arterial, neurogenic, and venous thoracic outlet syndrome are particularly well done. In general, the fifth edition of Rutherford is a nice improvement on previous editions. The two volumes are convenient, and while the price is may seem a bit high, it is comparable to other textbooks of similar stature and breadth of content. This reference is a must have for all vascular surgeons.

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Prognosis and Outcomes in Surgical Disease

Daniel P. McKeller, Richard B. Reiling, and Ben Eiseman, 1999, St. Louis, MO: Quality Medical Publishing, Inc., 465 pages, \$85.00

This book represents Ben Eiseman's career-long effort to focus clinicians on the use outcome assessment to formulate treatment strategies. Over 150 common surgical problems have been researched by credible surgical experts and are addressed in easily interpretable algorithms. Items that drive decision making are clearly identified and treatment options are listed with their comparative outcomes. The annotated text provides insight into the experts reasoning and personal biases. Often-quoted references are included.

I highly recommend this book for several reasons. In this era of information overload, it is impossible for a busy clinician to keep up. This book offers easy access to determine how new information has changed conventional surgical wisdom. Additionally, now more than ever, physicians are being asked by a host of individuals who lack clinical perspective (e.g., hospital administrators, insurance companies, the government) to provide the rationale for their decisions. This book provides the clinical perspective of those who best understand surgical diseases and the evidence based nature of the information it provides is difficult to refute. This book would also be an invaluable educational tool to quickly access adequacy of trainee's knowledge on

topics commonly found on board certification examinations. Finally, it is comparatively inexpensive (\$85.00).

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Surgical Diseases of the Pancreas (3rd Edition)

John Howard, Yasuo Idezuki, Ingemar Ihse, and Richard Prinz, 1998, Baltimore, MD: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 869 pp, \$149.00

There is reason to celebrate that an established and some might say classic text in the world of surgery for the pancreas has had a new edition prepared. John Howard (who was a pioneer in surgery for the pancreas long before the advances in critical care, imaging, and interventional and endoscopic techniques, all of which have greatly enhanced the resources available to any pancreatic surgeon) serves as the senior editor and is a vital link to the past in the management of these diseases. In addition, the other three editors, Yasuo Idezuki, Ingemar Ihse and Richard Prinz, an international panel, should reassure all that a global view of the pancreas can be found here. This review does not permit me to go into great detail about each aspect of this text; however, I would like to draw attention to important strengths that will be recognized as significant additions to any current text in this area.

Lawrence Rosenberg's review of the physiologic basis for surgical diseases in the first section of this book is an excellent primer for any student of the pancreas and should serve as a reference for students and practitioners. The entire Section Two includes important diagnostic and therapeutic measures that have either risen anew since the last edition or have been greatly enhanced in their applicability. These include endoscopic ultrasound, ERCP with the use of endoluminal stenting, some of the important developments in angiography, as well as the use of MRI. There is also a very nice chapter on pancreatic function tests. Further evidence of adapting to the current state of technology can be seen in Section Three, where intraoperative ultrasound is well reviewed, and this modality is certainly a vital tool for any busy pancreatic surgeon. In addition, there was a very nice chapter by Alfred Kushieri on laproscopic applications in surgery of the pancreas.

There have been extensive revisions to John Howard's general discussions of acute pancreatitis, acute necrotizing pancreatitis, and chronic pancreatitis. I would like to alert the reader to the sense of history and to the review of the developments in the management of each of these specific entities which are recorded well in these chapters. A further reflection of the attention this text gives to newer developments in the management of pancreatic diseases is the chapter written by Stuart Sherman and Glen Lehman on the endoscopic treatment of chronic pancreatitis. This generally

refers to the use of endoluminal stents and Glen Lehman is certainly a pioneer in this area. Although most surgeons would agree that a measure of caution needs to be applied to these techniques, I believe this chapter presents a reasonable and balanced approach to the evolving data in this new area. Hans Beger and colleagues have included a presentation of the seminal work from Ulm regarding experience with the duodenum preserving resection of the pancreatic head in the treatment of chronic pancreatitis. It is interesting to note how significantly this procedure has spread throughout the world of surgery for the pancreas since the last edition of this text in 1987. There is a very nice review of the various modalities currently employed for the management of pancreatic pseudocysts written by Harvey Bumpers and Ed Bradley. This again represents an area where significant developments have occurred over the 11 years between the last edition of this text and the current one.

Also of note are the two sections on neoplasms of the pancreas. There is a very nice division in the edition between basic science facts related to neoplasms of the pancreas followed by a very extensive clinical review of the management of carcinoma of the pancreas. The basic science section includes an excellent review of the means by which molecular biology may aid in the diagnosis and therapeutic measures available for this cancer, written by Nicholas Lemoine and his colleague. This can only be described as a state-of-the-art description, which should clarify any of the confusion one might have had regarding this important area of research. There is also an excellent chapter on tumor markers for pancreatic cancer. Both of these represent areas of considerable development over the past 11 years since the last edition. Finally, although most of our eyes begin to haze over as we approach the new staging system that has been developed in Japan for carcinoma of the pancreas, there is an excellent review of this highly detailed and well-documented system.

The section on the clinical management of pancreatic carcinoma is thorough. Important additions include an excellent review of clinical staging by Tsiotos and Sarr. New to this edition includes a chapter on the extended lymphadenectomy, a review of radiotherapy, hormonal therapy and immunotherapy, and a very nice review of the treatment of pancreatic cancer pain by Dr. Lillemoe. Finally, I must mention that the spate of published articles and attention directed towards the combined syndromes of papillary cystic and solid tumors and mucinous papillary cystic tumors with ductal ectasia are well reviewed in a section on cysts, true cysts, and cystic tumors of the pancreas. This area whose entire literature has evolved greatly over the last 5 to 7 years is reviewed very nicely first in a chapter by Howard

and his associate and finally in a review by Kosuge, Shimada, and Yamamoto.

One might say that the measure of a classic text is its ability to preserve its power and effectiveness over time. In the case of *Surgical Diseases of the Pancreas* edited by Howard and associates the modifications made in this established text assure that it will continue to be included as indispensable in the library of anyone interested in diseases of the pancreas.

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Oncologic Imaging

C. G. Berman, N. J. Brodsky and R. A. Clark, 1997, New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 392 pp, \$95

This text provides a comprehensive review of current imaging modalities utilized in evaluating patients with cancer. The editors provide an excellent overview of the importance of the multidisciplinary team in the diagnosis, management, and follow-up of cancer patients. The background for this revolves around appropriate staging based on the TNM system developed by the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) and the Union Internationale Contre le Cancer (UICC).

The reader is guided through each of the disease sites with an outline of the appropriate screening evaluation, diagnostic modalities, and suggested surveillance studies. This is provided in the context of the TNM classification for each solid tumor and is best accomplished in the chapters on head and neck cancer, gastrointestinal oncology, the female genital tract, and the male genital tract. The chapter on imaging of breast cancer is in a more abbreviated format with a greater emphasis on mammographic screening and its cost-effectiveness. The text concludes with specialty chapters on AIDS-related malignancies, the role of interventional radiology in oncologic diagnosis, and management and newer imaging modalities. The emerging role for positron emission tomography (PET scanning) is explored along with the exciting area of physiologic radionuclide imaging (Thallium 201 and MIBI scans).

In summary, *Oncologic Imaging* is an excellent overview of the priority screening, diagnostic, and surveillance studies for patients with solid tumors. It would be a useful addition to the library of residents as well as practicing surgeons who are involved in the care of cancer patients.

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